

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 15-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are amended, claims 4-7, 11-14, and 18-21 are cancelled, and claims 22-30 are added by the present response. Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 4,760,606 to Lesnick et al. (herein "Lesnick").

Addressing the rejection of claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Lesnick, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

It is initially noted that each of independent claims 1, 8, and 15, is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, those claims now clarify an operation including both "first and second sheets of format image information". Those claims also clarify that detecting the "first sheet of format image information" starts a storing operation that stores sheet document image information in a prescribed folder, and "wherein when the second sheet of format image information is detected, the storing of the sheet document image information in the prescribed folder is completed within one page as a file, said file being accessed by designating a file name". Such features are noted in the present specification for example in Figures 7 and 8, and the corresponding description therein. As shown, for example, in Figure 8 in the present specification, a sheet of format image information can indicate an "End" of a document to be stored in a specific folder. The above-noted operation is also discussed in the present specification at page 12, line 13, to page 15, line 7. In the above-noted claims both the folder and file are created when the pair of format sheets is used for the purpose of easy accessing of a user to the file formed in the folder.

Such features as clarified in the claims are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art to Lesnick.

Lesnick discloses in Figure 6 the use of a header page 600, but Lesnick does not teach or suggest utilizing a second sheet of format information that when detected indicates an end of a document to be stored in the prescribed folder, and thereby indicating completing of the storing operation. As shown, for example, in Figure 7 of the present specification, step S26 completes the writing of data in the prescribed data storing field after detecting the second sheet of format image information indicating an end of a document to be stored in step S24. Lesnick also does not teach creating both the folder and file when the pair of format sheets is used for the purpose of easy accessing of a user to the file formed in the folder.

Such a feature as clarified in the claims distinguishes over the teachings in Lesnick as Lesnick only discloses the use of the header page and not the use of any end page to signal completion of a storing operation.

In such ways, each of amended independent claims 1, 8, and 15, and the claims dependent therefrom, distinguish over the applied art to Lesnick.

The present response also sets forth new claims 22-30 for examination, which are believed to also distinguish over the applied art. New claims 22-30 are similar to previously pending claims 1-3, 8-10, and 15-17 except that those claims further recite “when the sheet of format image information describes a group user name, said image information server continuously stores the sheet document image information in applicable folders defined by the group user name”. Such a further feature is believed to distinguish over the applied art to Lesnick. More specifically, Lesnick does not teach or suggest a group user use storage. Instead, Lesnick merely shows that a new file is created each time when a new header page 600 is indicated, but such a feature does not teach or suggest the claimed group user use storage.

In such ways, new claims 22-30 are believed to also distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
GJM/SNS/cja/smi

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Maier', written over a horizontal line.

Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record

I:\ATTY\SNS\0557\05574696\05574696-AM.DOC